



Body Worn Cameras

The cameras are here!



San Diego County Sheriff's Department
Video Analysis Unit

Body Worn Cameras

Purpose

Familiarize deputies with the San Diego Sheriff's Department Policy 6.131, Body Worn Cameras (BWC), and the BWC Operation Manual



Body Worn Cameras

Topics

- Historical review – Why cameras?
- Policy/BWC Manual – Deputy Support
- Definitions, Procedures, Operations
- Policy – Do's and Don'ts



Body Worn Cameras

Why we are here...



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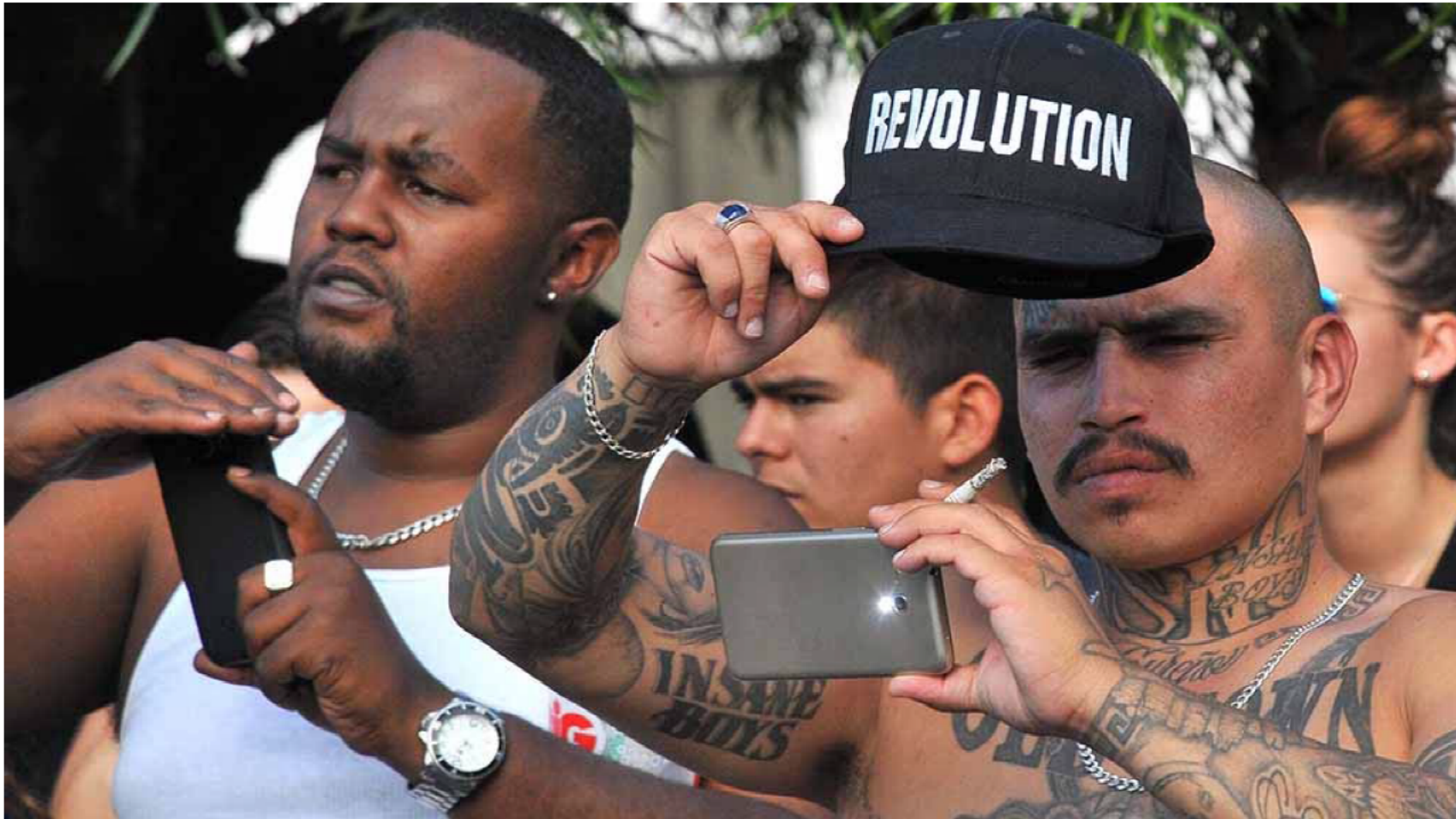
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Body Worn Cameras

Why?

- 59% Reduction in Use Of Force
- 87.5% Reduction in citizen complaint's (Rialto Police Dept.)
- From 2011 to 2012, Lake Havasu City Police Department showed complaints decreased by 58.2%



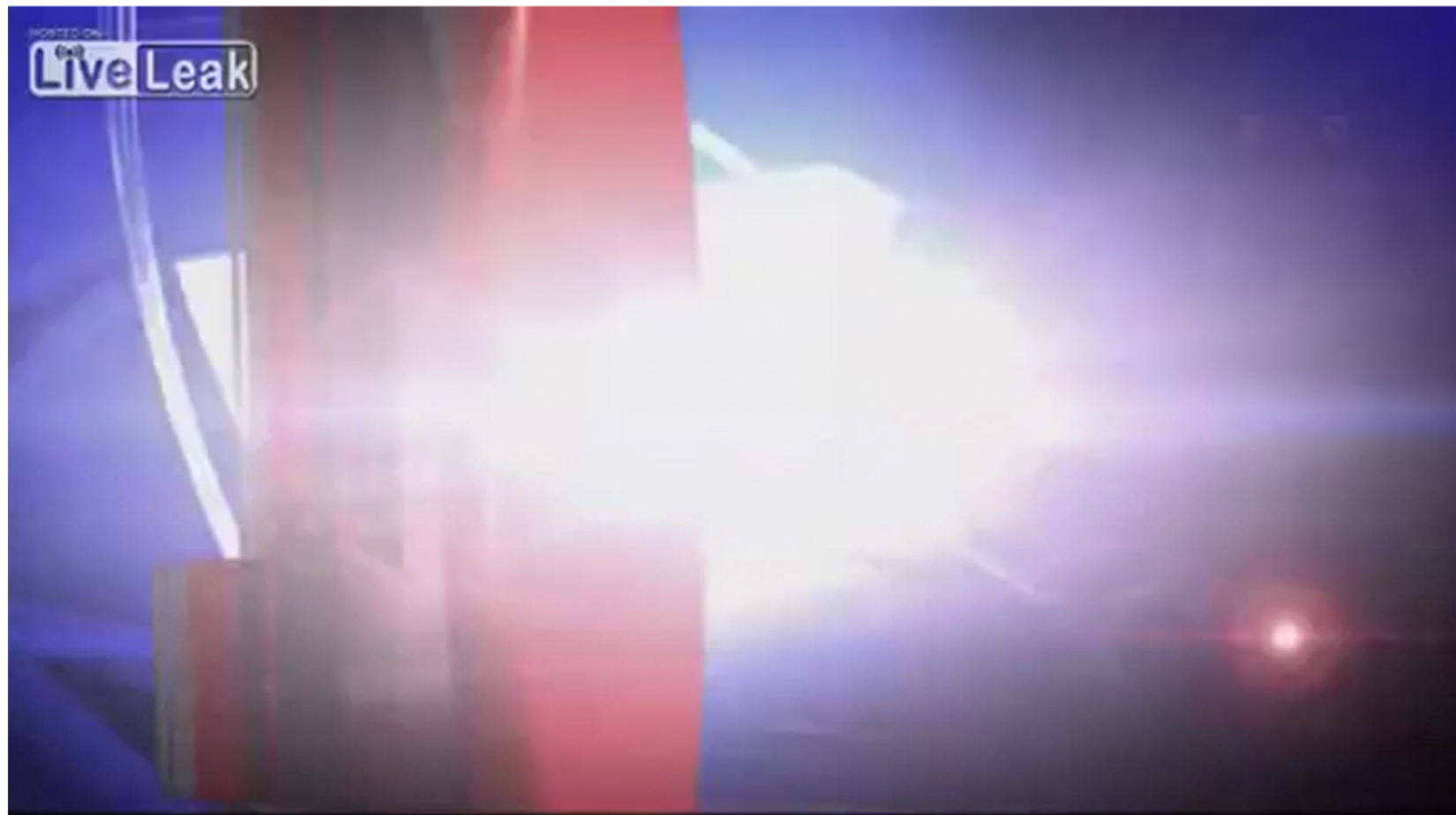
Body Worn Cameras

Why?

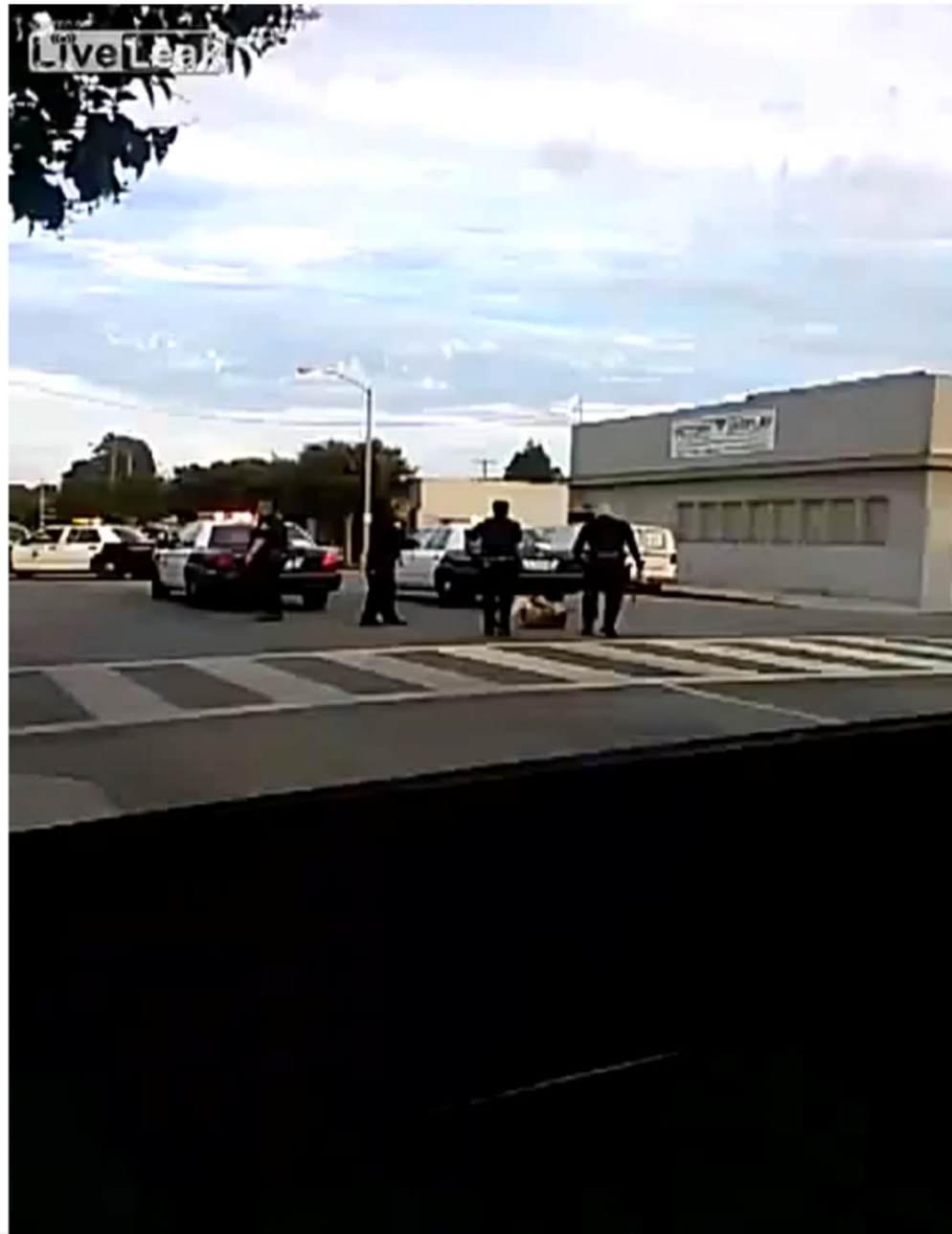
- Community trust
- Aid in documentation
- Prosecution
- You are already being recorded



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Body Worn Cameras

Video Redacted



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Body Worn Cameras

Policy and Procedure

- SDSO P&P 6.131 – Body Worn Camera Policy



Body Worn Cameras

Policy & Procedure Goals

- Capturing crimes in progress
- Documenting deputy response
- Aiding in statement / report documentation
- Serve as a training tool



Body Worn Cameras Policy

P&P 6.131 – The San Diego County Sheriff's Department authorizes the use of Body Worn Camera (BWC) technology, with the goal of providing an additional layer of documentation for events, actions, conditions and statements made during critical incidents and to improve reports, collection of evidence and testimony in court. The use of the BWC technology is meant to assist and compliment Deputy Sheriff's and Community Services Officers in the performance of their duties and is not meant to replace or relieve the Deputy or Community Services Officer of his/her responsibility of submitting any and all required written reports.



Body Worn Cameras Policy

All audio, images and media associated with the BWC are the property of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and will not be copied, released or disseminated in any form or manner outside the parameters of this policy without the express written release from the San Diego County Sheriff or his/her designee. Sheriff's Detectives assigned to conduct criminal investigations, creating a secondary copy of a BWC recording subsequent to an official investigation, are exempt from the above. Under no circumstances will any employee of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department make a personal copy of any recorded event.



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

When to record

- Deputies shall activate the BWC to record all law enforcement related contacts.
- While away from department facilities, deputies shall keep their BWC powered on and in stand-by mode.
- The record mode of the camera shall be activated prior to actual contact with the citizen, or as soon as safely possible.



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

Law enforcement contacts

- Traffic stops
- Field interviews
- All searches
- Vehicle tows (Initial contact)
- Persons present at radio calls
- Deputy initiated consensual contacts
- Detentions



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

When to record

- Informing people you are recording is not mandatory if you have a legal right to be in that location
- Continue recording until the contact is concluded or no longer any evidentiary value
- Use experience when deciding when you no longer need to record an event (Can restart)



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

Victim and Witness Interview

- Deputies/community services officers shall record victim and witness interviews. However, if the victim or witness refuses to provide a statement with the recorder turned on, the deputy may shut off the recorder after adhering to the following procedure:



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

Victim and Witness Interview

- Before turning off the recorder, the deputy shall verbally notate on the recorder the reason for shutting it off and the time it is shut off.
- During the interview, if it becomes appropriate to reactivate the recorder, the deputy will immediately or as soon as practical, do so.



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

Suspect Interview

- When recording interviews, deputies shall ensure they record any admonishments prior to the start of an interview.



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

What NOT to do

- Not for personal use (Official use only)
- No tampering with device
- Deputies are prohibited from pairing or using their personal phone, smart device, or other personal recording device for body-worn camera applications
- Deputies shall not make copies of any recording for their personal use and are prohibited from using a recording device (such as a camera phone or secondary video camera) to record media from BWC software or any device utilized to view data recorded on body-worn cameras.
- No unauthorized distribution



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

When NOT to record

- Pre-shift conferences
- Department locker rooms
- Break rooms
- Restrooms
- Report writing room
- Tactical briefings
- Undercover deputies
- Confidential informants



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

When NOT to record

- Unless evidentiary in nature, or related to a criminal investigation, deputies should avoid recording exposed areas of the body that could cause embarrassment or humiliation
- Or other event not related to law enforcement activity- Deputy/citizen contact



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

When NOT to record

- Medical or psychological evaluations by a clinician or similar professional, or during treatment. This includes during PERT clinician interviews
- Court proceedings
 - Regardless of the setting, deputies confronting a violent or assaultive suspect, or anticipating using force, shall activate their BWCs to record the encounter.*



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

When to view video

- You can review your own BWC videos for writing reports and prior to any interview
- Document the viewing of your video in the narrative of your report
- Can only review another deputies' videos with supervisor permission



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

- Should circumstances require the immediate retrieval of a digital recording (e.g., department shootings and department involved accidents with serious injury), a supervisor **shall** ensure that the BWC system is secured and maintain chain of custody.
 - Following a safety statement, the on-scene sergeant will collect the BWC system of any involved deputies for the investigators.*



Body Worn Cameras Procedure

- In situations where a deputy is unable to provide information due to injury, their camera system may be viewed by any on scene deputy for the purpose of gaining critical investigative information.



Body Worn Cameras

Department Cell Phone Use

- Read and know the department's policy on cell phones (P&P 7.4)
- No expectation of privacy
- Will be seized and reviewed (OIS)



Body Worn Cameras

Department Cell Phone Use

- Group/team threads should remain professional
- Should only be used for work related correspondence
- The Location Services feature must be left on/active at all times.



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Body Worn Cameras Operation Manual

The Operation Manual contains additional operational directives regarding the use of body worn cameras



Body Worn Cameras Operation Manual

- Digital evidence captured by the BWC has limitations and is not all inclusive.
- Deputy/Officer safety shall be the primary consideration, *not* the ability to record an event.
- The safety of deputies and members of the public is the highest priority.



Body Worn Cameras

Operation Manual

Definitions

- BWC- Body Worn Camera
- Buffering Mode- Captures **video only** on 30 sec. loop
- ETS- Evidence Transfer System
- Metadata- Data/text added to videos for tracking and managing digital evidence



Body Worn Cameras

Operation Manual

Storage

- Store in Docking Station when not in use. Docking stations charge, upload footage and update the camera
- Exception: Traffic, Rural and K9



Body Worn Cameras Operation Manual

- Inspect the camera prior to shift
- Demonstrations
- Unintentional recordings



Body Worn Cameras Operation Manual Documentation

- Video does not relieve you of writing your report-statements/interviews
- Injuries or scene documentation still needs to be in report
- If it is in the video, it is in your report
- Reports still require digital photographs as evidence



Body Worn Cameras Operation Manual Documentation

- Add Body Camera Video to Property section in RMS # “1306”
- The quantity is the total amount of BWC videos collected from all deputies on scene
- Document use of BWC in narrative including any mutual aid with BWC
- **Reporting Deputy** needs to add video into evidence tab of NetRMS



Body Worn Cameras

Documentation

BWC Limitations

1. A camera does not follow your eyes or see as they see
2. Some important danger cues can't be recorded
3. Camera speed differs from speed of life
4. A camera WILL see better than you do in low light
5. Your body may block the view
6. BWC only records in 2-D
7. The absence of sophisticated time-stamping may prove critical
8. One camera may not be enough
9. A camera encourages second guessing
10. A camera can never replace a thorough investigation



Body Worn Cameras Documentation

Use of Force Documentation

- Narration of use of force and deputy action
- Totality of the circumstance (*Graham v. Connor*)
- Sound can be more important than video
- “Stop resisting” can be expanded
- If there were body worn cameras on scene, the DA requires the video to file on 148 & 69 PC cases



Body Worn Cameras Documentation

Use of Force Documentation

- Cameras are an imperfect reflection of reality
- Document your reasons, actions and justifications just like we do now
- Document the things BWC's does not capture
- Review your BWC video
- With a supervisor's permission, you may view other deputies' videos for evidentiary reasons (document)



Body Worn Cameras Documentation

- Include the presence of BWC video in your synopsis
- Narrative should reference if you viewed BWC video
- Example: “I reviewed my body worn camera video to ensure the accuracy of my report.”



Body Worn Cameras Considerations

- When you will be at the station and do not anticipate the need to record BWC video you may turn the camera off
- This will help preserve camera battery life as well as limit accidental recordings
- Be sure to turn the camera on if the need arises to take law enforcement action
- Turn camera **on** when exiting the station



Body Worn Cameras

Professional Conduct

- Audio might be all that is recorded
- Be aware of relaxing and forgetting about the camera
- Be professional... All the time



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Professional Conduct

- Law Enforcement are held to higher standards
- High stress and emotional events
- Watch out for instigators & baiters
- Help your partners out
- [Blow a fuse video](#)



Body Worn Cameras Considerations

- Overtime use and charging
- And one of most critical components in regards to body worn cameras is...

Entering Metadata



Body Worn Cameras Considerations

- Deputy Rodgers, the rest of the story



Body Worn Cameras Contact Information

Video Analysis Unit

Sgt. David Collins



Deputy Justin Cole



Deputy Juliet Dias



Cpl. Alexander Roti



Body Worn Cameras

Data or upload problems &
issues contact the Help Desk

858-571-4211

HelpDesk@sdsheriff.org



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